

Badger Contesters

#6 17 February 1995

January Waukesha Hamfest Meeting

Holy Cow!!!! Thirty--count 'em 30--VHF'ers made a point to be at the Badger Contesters meeting held during the Hamfest in Waukesha. This kind of turnout is twice what I expected--I was pleasantly overwhelmed. We picked up 13 new members. A group of six came down from the Green Bay area. It was nice to finally meet famous callsigns like AA9AO and WD9EGE. Also nice to see WA9LWJ again and to meet ND9Z. Also becoming new members were N9OO--famous for many multi-ops in the early 80's, and K9IMM a famous HF contesteer. N9TD and W9HI--calls that have been off of 2-meters for a few years have joined us as well.

First on our agenda was general introductions so that we get to know each other. Next was discussion about the then upcoming contest. We talked about how every score, no matter how small, is important and must be submitted. We also talked about ways to hand off contacts to other ops in the area. Thirdly, I checked for feedback on the general direction we've been heading with the Badger Contesters and there seemed to be general approval (I'm always open for ideas). Lastly, we briefly ran over some of the Contesting "Hot Topics" to see if there was a consensus position on some of them.

I noted almost total acceptance of FM as a valid mode for contest contacts. There was overall acceptance of expanding Club Competition to all VHF/UHF contests. Concerning moving sprints to the summer or late summer, there was general agreement citing improved conditions. There was also some interest moving sprints to weekends. Concerning Rover Scoring changes, there was general agreement that the change made, and the driving motives behind the change, were not in the best interest of VHF contesting. Other than a complete return to the original rules, there was no discussion of other alternatives.

I handed out some Grid maps and some contest paperwork. An hour went by very quickly. I was really glad to see such a large turnout. It means that there really are enough of us who want to make VHF contesting grow here in Wisconsin (while having fun at the same time).

Badger Contesters Members

ND9Z	N9PBA	N9TD
WB9VYP	N9LAD	N9YKE
WA1UJU	N9HOF	KA9UZW
W9HI	N9NLO	KF9QN
KE9QT	W9NSC	WD9BGA
WA9OKB	W9YCV	WA9KVS
KA9YPF	K9IMM	N9LMU
WA9ACI	KC9RH	W9XT
N9ISN	WD9IAB	K9VGE
AA9AO	KA9ENA	WD9EGE
WB9OJM	WA9LWJ	WA9LZM
KA9BXG	KY9P	WA9O
W9NAW	WW1M	KA9VYM
WF9X	N9VCH	

1995 January Sweepstakes Results!!!!

Well, the January Sweeps are histroy. Wisconsin contesting and the Badger Contesters took great strides forward. Although most operators noticed below average conditions on Saturday, most everybody noticed increased activity levels. That's what we want--more people, more q's, and more fun. On page two is a scoring breakdown showing the information that I recieved. Some very impressive performances! For our Badger Contester effort, every score is important no matter the magnitude. Because not only do your points help, but also all the guys you work. Thank you everybody for making the effort. I hope you had fun--most of you seemed to report that. Last year, we submitted 11 logs for 18000 points. This year, we have over 24 logs and will score over 100000 points! What a change in a year! It was good that we had a couple of guys tackle the Multi-op and Limited Multi-op.

Most operators reported making some FM contacts. They said that the Q's were helpful. Most were on 2m on .55 and .58, but 223.5 and 446.0 also yielded additional Q's.

Jan '95 Soapbox Comments

Six meters was very noisy and few stations heard. East coast bursts heard on 2m. (WA9KVS) Some calls and grid numbers given too fast and poor annunciation (N9LAD) I didn't have my beam up--limited range with verticals. (KF9QN) Lousy conditions early on--lots of local stations! Rovers and a new band (222) really helped. (WA9LWJ) If there were any, I missed the exciting moments. Not much enhancement noted here.

Badger Contesters Activity for Jan 95

Call	6		2		222		432		903		1296		Total	Total
	Qpt	Grd	Qpt	Grd	Qpt	Grd								
Single Operator														
WA9LWJ	33	17	147	35	46	15	84	18	0	0	40	8	350	93
KA9UZW	17	9	93	29			32	11					142	49
KE9QT (EN-43)	13	9	40	18	18	6	36	11	8	2	24	4	139	50
N9LMU			61	26			48	16			8	2	117	44
N9ISN	26	11	85	24			8	2					119	37
KE9QT (EN-55)	5	4	26	13	14	5	32	9	4	1	12	3	93	35
KE9QT (EN-45)	5	4	27	11	12	4	24	7	4	1	16	4	88	31
KE9QT (EN-46)	4	4	28	12	16	6	26	6	4	1	8	2	86	31
WA9KVS	20	9	51	22			2	1					73	32
KE9QT (EN-44)	4	3	22	11	12	5	16	6	4	1	12	3	70	29
N9LAD	19	7	30	13	8	2	6	3					63	25
WB9VYP			72	21									72	21
W9YCV			41	16			20	7					61	23
WD9IAB	2	1	29	19			20	7					51	27
WD9BGA	6	4	45	16			4	2					55	22
N9YKE	4	2	39	15			14	3					57	20
KE9QT (EN-56)	3	3	11	7	8	4	6	3	4	1	4	1	36	19
N9NOF	2	2	25	9			9	5					36	16
KF9QN	6	4	8	3			6	2					20	9
W9XT													0	0
K9VGE													0	0
WW1M													0	0
WA1UJU/9													0	0
WA9O													0	0
WA9LZM													0	0
N9TD													0	0
WD9EGE													0	0
Limited Multi-Op														
WA9ACI	13	3	121	26			50	14					184	43
Unlimited Multi-Op														
AA9AO	16	10	64	22	36	12	58	17			40	9	214	70
													14980	

Badger Contesters Total Score (Unconfirmed)

101573

QSO's are derived by dividing Qpts by "band point multiplier" (ie. 1,2,4,or 8)

(W9YCV) Conditions on Sat were awful. Snowfall seemed to hurt propagation making signals choppy enough to sound like aurora (especially on 432). Sunday was better, but CW necessary for many QSO's. Nice to see EN64 was very much a wanted grid for a change. (WD9IAB) On Sunday, conditions lengthened to the southeast with many stations in EM-79 heard and worked. FM activity on .55 helped. (KA9UZW) Conditions poor-to-fair--need more power on 1296. Too bad wasn't during last weeks tropo to 4 land-HI. (N9LMU) Could only operate for a few hours. Heard lots of FM activity on .55 and .58. Could clearly hear the Twin Cities FM activity but could not break in. (WD9BGA) Although Bob, KA9BXG, and I had fun, we probably won't be back up on Irma Hill in January again. Conditions were poor. Things started to open up on Sunday--which was nice. It snowed almost the entire time. That hill will be great in other contests, though. (AA9AO)

Although I didn't work Milwaukee as much as I would have liked, I did work a few of you from a few spots on my Grid-Hop. I was in snow showers most of the weekend and that seemed to hurt propagation. I noticed the increased activity and thought it was great! For my first grid, I operated from the same site as AA9AO's multi-op. They politely let me have free run of the frequencies while I was there. It was nice to view Greg and Bob's setup--impressive for winter. My next spot was in EN-56. I was at the Manitowish Waters Airport. The terrain is very flat and there are a bunch of trees. The airport is about the best way to pick up any horizon at all. I guess a boat landing on a lake would be another. Anyways, it was a horrible spot (just like last year) because I didn't work many folks. In EN-46, I found a pretty good spot right in the town of Butternut. At the city park, right at the base of the water tower, is a parking lot and you are on a small hill. There are some trees that would hurt 1296 and up, but other than that, it's a pretty good spot and it is RIGHT on the southern edge of the grid. Spots in EN-45 and EN-44 weren't spectacular. I had lots of fun from "my hill" in my home grid of EN-43. Never worked Chicago much. I could hear K9HMB right on 144.200 most of the weekend. I am starting to get some insight into what it is like operating from a major metropolitan city with plenty of strong stations on the same band at the same time. In any future Grid-Hops, I will use a frequency farther away from .200 as a "main-freq". (KE9QT)

As We Grow

As the Badger Contesters matures as a group there are other ways contesting and friendship can grow outside of contests. Elmering each other on new bands, non-contest grid-expeditions, and local breakfasts or shack visits are a few things we might do. A weekly or monthly net is a possibility. AA9AO has offered to lead a two meter net. What night, what frequency, and how often seem good to you? Give some feedback either through

the mail or at the next meeting you attend. If you have some ideas on things that might be fun for us to pursue, then send them along! If we choose to become an ARRL Special Service Club, then we could pick up the benefit of having our own local VUCC card checkers.

I don't want to rush things and I sure don't want to create a burdensome monster, but we are going to grow over the next few years. Your input will be crucial so that we all have fun.

Card Checking

For ARRL WAS award (HF or VHF) you can have your cards checked right here in Wisconsin by running them by Gregg Seidl, AA9AO. He says its best if you call him at 414-863-6167. That way he can brief you on what you need to send along and minimize any problems with the checking process.

For VUCC, Mike, WD9EGE, is available for card checking. He says his life is awfully busy lately and he would prefer if you use another checker but he is there as an option.

Beacons/Nets

The Minneapolis Boys are on every band every week! Every Tuesday night, there is a short net on each band. AA9AO in Green Bay has been able to check in easily on several bands. The times and freqs follow. If you hear them, give them a shout--they know to be listening for Wisconsin check-ins.

Tuesday nights

6m	1930L	50.175
2m	2000L	144.175
222	2030L	222.100
432	2100	432.110
1.2 and up immed.following 432		

1296.077 Beacon. WD9EGE has a 1296 beacon active whenever he is not on the air. It has about 10 watts to a 45 element beam pointed south. The beacon transmits from EN-54 near Green Bay.

Let me know of other nets and beacons.

Activity Pockets

WA9KVS suggested that we get the word out on calls to look for in various parts of the state. Although this info is too late for the January contest, pull this out again in June as you plan your beam-swinging.

Michigan UP:

EN-57

N8IMU Laurium, has an almost daily sked with W9CCZ

KK7B Chassell, occasionally on 6, 2 and the microwaves
W8ZZM ???

EN-56
WA9SKA Amasa, 6 and 2

EN-66
KG7Z/8 Ishpeming, Art has been on 6,2,432 for years
N8PUM Ishpeming, 6,2,432 offering to host beacons
KG8?? Ishpeming/Negaunee

Wisconsin:

EN-45
WB9HRO W. of Wausau famous HF'er
N9LTJ Bloomer, Mark is on at least 2m
NZ9U Dorchester, Jack has skeds with W9CCZ
WA9YCT on at least 2 from near Dorchester

EN-44
N9ISN Eau Clair, Al is on 6 and 2 at least
N0AKC Chip Falls, Charlie is on 6,2,432 and more
W0UC Eau Clair, in contests of course

EN-43
KA9QFK Reedsburg, Dominic is on 6 & 2
KB9FHA New Lisbon, John is on 2
N9IGS Onalaska, Tom is on 2
N9ETD Onalaska, Craig is on 2
WA9HCZ Onalaska, Jerry is in every contest on 6,2,&432

EN-53
Madison area look for:
N9RPT, KC9RH, NZ9B, N9UDO, KA9WBX

EN-54
WD9EGE Grn Bay, Mike is on 6,2,222,432,1296
WA9LWJ Jct City, John is on 6,2,222,432,1296
N9ROX ??
KD9PW Nekoosa, Jim is on 6,2,222,432

Send me info on others to mention.

All Band Sprint

If this got to you in time, this sprint will be TONITE!!--Monday Night! The Northern Lights Radio Society sponsored a regional all-band sprint on a weeknight in early December. The purpose was to have activity in the area on all the bands. Eighteen hams submitted logs. The top two entrants made over 100 Q's each during the three hour sprint. Not bad for a weeknight! Several guys picked up new grids.

The Northern Lights Radio Society is sponsoring another all-band sprint on Monday, February 20th from 7-10pm local. Scoring is standard Sprint scoring of one point per QSO regardless of band. All QSO points and all Grids are added up and then multiplied to yield final score. So,

if you are around the shack, get on the air and make some noise! When you're done, mail a logsheet to Rich Westerberg, N0HJZ, 17500 Cherry Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55346. Everyone who sends in a log will receive a certificate and a scoring report.

Internet

If you are email accessible, and wish to carry on some dialog via computer, share with me your "address". I will list it in the next issue if you want your address circulated.

Bruce, KE9QT use: 74172.211@compuserve.com

Also, if you wish to subscribe to the vhf-rover reflector, send a message with the word "subscribe" in the body to:

vhf-rover-request@eng.pko.dec.com

There is also just a vhf reflector but I don't know its address. I'll have it for the next issue.

Irma Hill (EN-55)

Gregg Seidl, AA9AO, is arranging with the owners of Irma Hill to receive permission for any Badger Contester to operate from the hill--contest or otherwise. They will develop a suitable release and guidelines for use. I know Gregg is planning an operation from there for the UHF Contest in August (possibly Multi-op). Thank you to the hill owners and thank you to Gregg for taking the initiative to increase the opportunities for all of us. Standby for the final details.

Madison Hamfest Meeting April 2nd

The Madison Hamfest is on Sunday, April 2nd at the Dane County Expo Center Forum Building. The hamfest opens at 8am. I would like to have a meeting there except I will have just started school down at Little Rock AFB, AR. I know N9ISN will be there. If KC9RH, N9ISN, WA9ACI, WA9O, or WD9BGA could honcho the meeting, it will be a go. At the Forum Building, there is an outer foyer at the entrance. At the south end of this foyer room seems quiet enough and could handle any size turnout we might have. **10am** seems to be a good time. Listen up for announcements.

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